



CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

# RETURN ATACAMA: A LABOUR OF LOVE

Friday, May 24, 2019,  
3 – 5 p.m.

John Molson School of Business  
MB-13.101, 1450 Guy St.

Roewan Crowe  
University of Winnipeg

In this talk, Dr. Roewan Crowe will share the collaborative project and digital book, *Return Atacama*. Based on the collective work of the artist collective CONTELACIONES —Roewan Crowe, Doris Difarnecio, Christina Hajjar, Monica Martinez, and Helene Vosters— this richly visual collection from the HemiPress Gesture Series (2019) incorporates photography, video, drone footage, poetry, and prose, to produce a polyphonic experience of this politically urgent performance. Blurring the distinction between artistic and scholarly work, both the performance and this publication, which bears its name, probe the possibilities and limits of transnational creative collaboration, while “challenging the containment of trauma associated with political violence within isolated historical events and disciplinary or geographic locations.

**Dr. Roewan Crowe** Artist and writer Roewan Crowe is energized by attempts at radical transformation. As a queer, white, feminist settler she explores reclamation practices to activate ecologies of imagination and regeneration. Her work includes: *digShift* (ongoing), an environmental reclamation project exploring the shifting layers of meaning at an abandoned gas station; *Lifting Stone*, a queer femme performance/ installation staging intimate stone encounters; and *Quivering Land* (ARP), a gritty feminist meditation on the possibilities of art to reckon with the ongoing legacies of violence and colonization. In January of this year, Dr. Roewan Crowe and Dr. Helene Vosters co-edited the open access digital book, *Return Atacama: Engaging Histories of Political Violence Through Performance and Durational Witnessing* (HemiPress, Gesture Series, 2019) based on the work of artist-collective CONTELACIONES. Crowe is busy at work in the greenhouse artlab with the newly formed artist collective SWARM and working on her next writing project *Ah Sugar: a novel about becoming queer in Alberta*. Her paid gig: Chair and Associate Professor at the University of Winnipeg in the department of Women's and Gender Studies.

Admission is free and open to the public.

CISSC Happening  
[concordia.ca/artsci/cissc](http://concordia.ca/artsci/cissc)

For more on Professor Roewan Crowe, please see:  
Return Atacama: [returnatacama.tome.press](http://returnatacama.tome.press)  
Artist website: [roewancrowe.com](http://roewancrowe.com)



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